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SAUTERNE (Serves 4) - \$2.00ROAST FRESH YOUNG TURKEY, Baked Chestnut Dressing and  
Compote of Fresh Cranberries**5-Week Strike  
Won in New York  
At Necco Candy**

— Page 5

**Third Broughton Dairy Votes  
To Join RWDSU in Ohio**

— Page 6

**DESSERTS (Choice)**

Old Fashioned Brandied Mince Pie (served hot or

Traditional Thanksgiving Fruit Cake

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Old English Plum Pudding, Topp

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Our Special Blend Coffee

Pot of S

Pot of Pectum

**Ontario Organizing Drive  
Brings in Six More Shops**

— Page 8

**Breakthru in Miami:  
Men's Wear Chain  
Agrees to First Pact**

— Page 7

**BURTON**

Forester .75 Old T

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## As Joblessness Rises and Production Falls:

# 'Tight Money' Policy Eased—Too Late?

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Final proof, if any were needed, that the nation's economy is slackening off to the danger point came Nov. 15 when the Federal Reserve System reversed course and ordered a drop in the discount rate for the first time in three years. The reversal of the Administration's "tight money" policy came as many business sources were joining labor economists in demanding an end to the restrictions on credit.

The New York Times reported Nov. 16 that the government's action was based on statistics showing "that the much-discussed recession in the economy was already under way." The statistics referred to were over-all figures revealing production in October fell to the lowest levels since the steel strike of July, 1956.

Federal Reserve Banks in various parts of the country set the new discount rate at 3 percent, down from the 3½ percent high point that was established only three months ago. The discount rate is the rate on loans by Federal Reserve Banks to commercial banks that belong to the Reserve System. It is generally regarded as the pace-setter for interest rates, and hence a lower Federal Reserve rate is expected to stimulate lending by member banks.

Whether the loosening of the "tight money" policy came in time to halt the downward trend of American business remains to be seen. Earlier indications were ominous. Here are a few of the economic straws in the wind gathered from various sources:

• Daniel B. Suits, assistant professor of economics at the University of Michigan, said that data compiled by a University research seminar indicates a 2,000,000 increase

in unemployment next year and puts the over-all figure at 4,800,000, nearly 7% of the nation's work force. The Research Seminar has correctly forecast the direction of the economy each of the six years it has been in operation.

• Factory employment which has been dropping steadily for the past ten months dropped another 100,000 in October, bringing the year's losses thus far to 470,000.

• The current average workweek dropped to 39.5 hours for a loss of slightly more than one hour, bringing average weekly earnings down to \$62.16, about the same as a year ago despite the increase in the cost-of-living.

Before the Federal Reserve Banks took action, the AFL-CIO economic publication warned of the dangers in the Administration's tight-money policy, and urged an improved balance between the economy's ability to produce and its ability to consume and a significant change in the pricing policies of the large corporations that set prices in major industries.

"That means wage and salary increases," the publication said. "It means, too, an overhauling of the federal tax structure to reduce the tax burden on consumers, particularly on low-and-middle-income families. The 'tight-money' policy must be reversed if the economy is to resume its growth."

A leading business publication, Business Week Magazine, also urged reversal of the "tight-money" policy:

"The Federal Reserve Bank have not succeeded in pushing consumer prices down, but there is ample evidence that any inflationary wind has been knocked out of other areas of the economy. The stock market has gone into a tailspin. Business is trimming down its plans for investment. Demand in many basic industries has failed to keep pace with the growth of capacity," Business Week said.

## Meyner Sweeps Despite Forbes Attack on CIO

# GOP Labor Smear Flops in Jersey

TRENTON, N. J. (PAI)—The voters of New Jersey have served notice that a vitriolic anti-labor campaign will not pay off. This significant outcome highlighted the fall elections in which labor-endorsed candidates in many parts of the nation scored decisive victories.

Incumbent Democratic Gov. Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey won over his Republican opponent, State Sen. Malcolm S. Forbes, by a landslide margin of more than 200,000 votes. This was 50,000 more than his widely heralded victory in 1953.

Forbes conducted much of his campaign against labor, specifically against the CIO which has not yet merged with the AFL in New Jersey. He continually charged that a "handful of CIO bosses" dictated support of Meyner.

Union leaders felt that the anti-labor tone of the Forbes campaign was planned from the earliest days of the campaign. It was considered a carefully calculated move through which the Republicans thought they would gain political advantage.

### Forbes Backed by Ike

Forbes had the warm endorsement of President Eisenhower. When Vice-President Richard Nixon campaigned in New Jersey he continued the Forbes strategy. First he talked about the McClellan Committee hearings which have brought to light some corrupt union leaders. Then he talked about the "labor-dictated" opposition to Forbes. In the minds of the voters, there was an inevitable tie-up.

The New Jersey State Federation of Labor did not make an endorsement in the race. However, the AFL Committee for Meyner stirred themselves to all-out activity in face of the attacks against labor.

The State CIO, which had endorsed Meyner, pitched into the campaign as it never would have done otherwise. Some 2,600 CIO people worked at the polls on election day.

The results provided some important warnings to anti-labor minded politicians in the future.

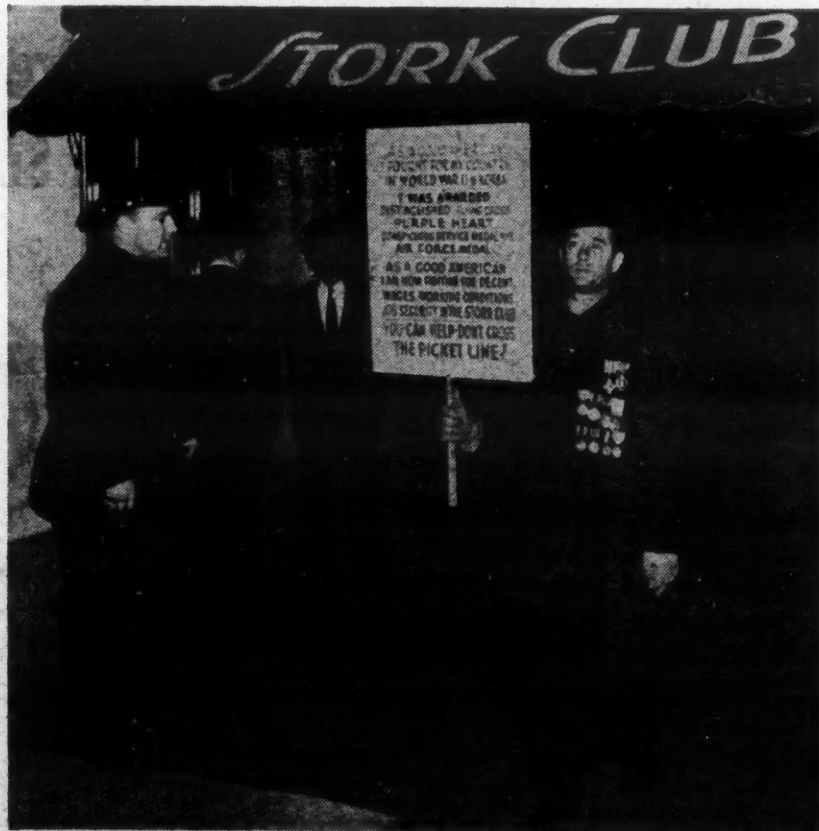
"The smear attacks on CIO leaders by Sen. Forbes were bitterly resented by the 250,000 'bosses' who run the State CIO and were responsible for the victory of Democratic candidates in the heavily industrial counties of Essex, Union and Passaic," declared State CIO Executive Vice-President Joel Jacobsen.

In reviewing the vote, The New York Times declared that Forbes made a "tac-

tical error" in his "repeated attacks on the Congress of Industrial Organizations in a state where CIO membership is pronounced."

Meyner not only rolled to an impressive

victory but he carried along with him the State Assembly by 42 to 18. It was the first time in 20 years that it went Democratic. Some Democratic gains were registered in the State Senate.



**NO ARMISTICE IN STORK CLUB STRIKE.** Veterans' Day, November 11, formerly known as Armistice Day, finds Anton "Andy" Peeters, World War II and Korean War hero, picketing Stork Club, in New York City. Andy, holder of such awards as the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, Conspicuous Service Medal of New York State, and Air Force Medal, is a member of Walters Union, Local 1. Strike of 55 waiters and 27 kitchen help for union recognition is now in eleventh month.

## in this issue

Labor News Roundup ....	4
N. Y. and Northeast .....	5
The Midwest .....	6
The South .....	7
Canada .....	8
N. Y. Blue Cross: Should It Get Rate Hike? ..	9
Letters to the Editor .....	10
Local 50's English Class ...	10
Retired 65ers on TV .....	11
Gyps Cheat Consumers ...	12
'108' Convention in Photos	13
Best Buys in Xmas Toys ...	14
Jane Goodsell Column ....	14
Humor, Cartoons .....	15

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**rwdsu RECORD**





IN NEW YORK, RWDSUers meet with Rep. Ludwig Teller. From left, 'Record' Editor Max Steinbock, Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Bail, Rep. Teller and Local 147 Mgr. Theodor Bowman. Paper held by Congressman is a copy of RWDSU Minimum Wage petition.



IN WEST VIRGINIA, Int'l Rep. Edgar Johnson, right, who led RWDSU delegation, poses with Rep. W. E. Neal. In group were AFL-CIO Asst. Regional Dir. Robert Edwards, Ralph Ross and William Copley of Local 612, and Pres. Gordon Millard and Clifford Metz of Local 21, who took picture.

## Visits to Congressmen Begin on Minimum Wage

Members of the RWDSU are "Seeing Their Congressmen" in the campaign to get early congressional approval of minimum wage law extension to retail workers and others not now covered.

A number of locals around the country have already made visits to their Congressmen while they are at home between Congress sessions. Some locals are planning further discussions with their legislators, and others have scheduled meetings with their Congressional representatives. All are busy circulating the RWDSU Minimum Wage Extension petition to Congress.

Visits have been made by some leading RWDSUers to two key men in Congress: Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois and Rep. Ludwig Teller of New York. Sen. Douglas is well known to RWDSUers as a supporter of a broader minimum wage law. He is the former chairman of the Senate Labor Sub-committee, and carries substantial influence among his former committee colleagues. He is also well known in the Senate as a tough battler for what he believes in.

Chicago Joint Board Pres. Hank Anderson talked with the Senator, informing him of the union's campaign. Sen. Douglas agreed to another meeting with Anderson and a committee of RWDSUers to develop a strategy for visits to other Congressmen in Illinois.

In New York, a committee including RWDSU Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Bail, Vice-Pres. Theodor Bowman and "Record" Editor Max Steinbock met with Rep. Ludwig Teller on Nov. 13 at the National Democratic Club.

Congressman Teller is regarded as a key figure in the House as far as the minimum wage law is concerned, since he is a member of the House Labor Committee and its sub-committee on fair labor standards. In his meeting with the RWDSUers, Rep. Teller backed up his earlier public support of broader coverage under the federal minimum wage law with a pledge to do everything possible to win an early vote on extension in the next session of Congress.

Elsewhere, meetings have been held with Rep. W. E. Neal, Republican of West Virginia, and Rep. George Huddleston, Democrat of Birmingham, Ala. Int'l Rep. Edgar Johnson, who led the RWDSU group visiting Rep. Neal, reported that, while the Congressman did not commit himself on the minimum wage issue, he was impressed with the vigor of the RWDSUers' presentation. Rep. Neal promised to study the minimum wage material they made available to him, and said he would write them of his decision. Johnson said the local would follow up this visit with letters from members.

Organizer Margaret Robbins of the Birmingham RWDSU Joint Council led a delegation to see Rep. Huddleston. She reported that he confirmed his support of extended minimum wage coverage, promising to act in behalf of the law's passage when Congress reconvenes after Jan. 1. Further plans of the Alabama RWDSU are to meet with Rep. Albert Raines of Gadsden, and with Senator Lister Hill, who recently returned from Europe. Senator Hill, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, is another key figure in the minimum wage campaign.

## Five-and-Dime Clerk Tells Why She Needs Federal Pay Floor

PORTLAND, Ore. (PAI)—A slim, attractive girl named Barbara Brown, testifying before a congressional hearing here, told a simple, forthright story—her story—but it provided illuminating insight as to why the Federal minimum wage law should be expanded in coverage.

Barbara, a clerk in a five and ten-cent store, is not covered by the \$1 Federal minimum wage law. Rep. James Roosevelt (D-Calif.), as chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor Standards of the House Labor and Education Committee, is conducting hearings on the question of extending coverage.

Barbara Brown did not claim to be an expert on the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. But she was an expert on one problem—the problem of supporting herself and her baby on the 85 cents an hour she had received as a clerk at Newberry's.

This is the story she told the congressional committee:

"My name is Barbara A. Brown. I am 21 years old. I live at Canby, a small town 25 miles south of Portland. I graduated from high school in Portland and my formal education ended at the high school level.

"In May, 1953, I was employed by the J. J. New-

berry Company in its Fifth Avenue store here in Portland at 80 cents an hour. I worked in 'party supplies' and in the candy section of the store until I was terminated in January, 1955, and I moved to Salem.

"In the meantime I was married. We had so many bills and were having such a difficult time making ends meet that I went to work for Newberry's again in their Salem store in June, 1956. I worked there continuously until May, 1957, except for a two-month period while my baby was being born. All the time I worked for Newberry's in Salem I received 85 cents an hour.

"My take-home pay each week was \$29.75.

"My husband deserted me about four months before the baby was born and I have been self-supporting ever since. I am now employed as a clerk in a general merchandise store in Canby. I am paid \$1 an hour for a 44-hour week. I know that \$1 is not very much. But it is about 18 percent more than 85 cents I received at Newberry's. In my case it is the difference between starving and existing.

"Twenty to 30 girls are employed in the Salem Newberry store. The number varies with the season of the year. Only two of these girls are paid \$1

an hour. The rest are paid well below that amount—as little as 70 cents an hour in many cases. How anyone can expect a woman to support herself at wages like this is beyond my comprehension.

"Trying to budget such essential items as food, rent, utilities, transportation, clothing and medical care is a frustrating and nerve-racking ordeal. I cook and heat water in the house I rent on an old-fashioned wood range. This winter we will practically live in the kitchen, as the same stove is the only source of heat in the house.

"The skirt I am wearing today is one of two skirts that I own. It is the same skirt I wore as a high school sophomore. I know that some will find it hard to believe, but the shoes I am wearing now are the only shoes I own.

"I do not pretend to understand the philosophy or reasoning that exempts retail salesgirls from the protection of the federal minimum wage-hour laws. But I do know that people such as myself are virtually being exploited while the owners or stockholders of gigantic chain stores are gloating over record sales and record profits.

"I want to assure the committee that there are thousands of people such as myself right here in Oregon. The only reason they are not here is that they are afraid."



# LABOR NEWS ROUNDUP

## New NLRB Decisions Held 'Drastically Anti-Union'

WASHINGTON (PAI)—A new series of anti-union decisions by the Eisenhower-appointed majority of the National Labor Relations Board has brought sharp criticism from labor lawyers.

They are the "most drastically anti-union decisions that have come down from the Board in many years," declared Thomas Harris, AFL-CIO associate general counsel.

After first banning picketing by a minority union in an alleged recognition case, the NLRB has now banned "we do not patronize" appeals to consumers in similar cases.

The latest decision drew another stinging dissent by Abe Murdock, last of the old Democratic appointees, who declared that the NLRB majority has now placed in jeopardy "all union unfair lists, whatever the object of boycott."

Only recently the NLRB majority, again with Murdock dissenting, found that a union representing a minority of employees could not picket for recognition under Taft-Hartley. This involved Curtis Brothers of Washington, D. C. and Local 639 of the Teamsters. It is being appealed. The theory behind the Board's decision was that the picketing hurt the employer's business, that this in turn threatened the livelihood of his employees and that therefore they were being "coerced" by the union.

### 'Coercion' Ruled by Board

The Board now has gone a step farther in declaring that the use of a "we do not patronize" appeal to the public in a minority recognition case also threatens economic loss to the employer and so represents "coercion" on his employees.

This second case involves Lodge 942 of the Machinists and the Alloy Manufacturing Company of Spokane, Wash. Lodge 942 was charged with seeking union shop conditions for two members of the union and with seeking to obtain this through picketing and the placing of the shop on the "we do not patronize" list of the Spokane Central Labor Council.

In accordance with the Curtis decision, the Board found the picketing illegal. But it introduced a new factor by finding the "we do not patronize" step also illegal.

Murdock, in his dissent, declared that Taft-Hartley itself makes no such restriction and that the majority was amending the Act in the light of its own viewpoint. The decision, he contended, represents "an even more extreme position than that the majority takes in Curtis."

The Curtis and Alloy cases are being carefully studied by labor lawyers. To what extent do they apply in the case of a union which has gone on strike for economic objectives only to find jobs taken over by scabs who decertify the striking union which then becomes a minority representative, as in the O'Sullivan case? Are picketing and boycotts illegal in such cases? Will the decisions encourage businessmen to replace strikers in economic strikes, eventually call for a decertification election and so "bust" the union even more easily than in the past?

Observers note that 1958 is going to be an active collective bargaining year with employer resistance a likely factor. In the event of economic strikes the Curtis and Alloy decisions may become highly important as new weapons in the anti-union arsenal.



**JOE E. LEWIS GETS AWARD:** It was a happy occasion on the stage of the Capitol Theatre, New York, when Joe E. Lewis, second from right, received the American Guild of Variety Artists (AFL-CIO) plaque for his outstanding contribution to theatrical profession. Making presentation, l. to r., are George Price, ACVA president, June Havoc and Sophie Tucker.

## UAW Acquitted of Charge It Used Funds in Politics

DETROIT (PAI)—Critics of the right of organized labor to carry on political education suffered a stinging defeat here when a jury of ten women and two men acquitted the United Automobile Workers of illegal political activity.

The verdict, brought in after an hour and 45 minutes, abruptly stopped long-standing efforts of the Government to prove that the UAW violated the Corrupt Practices Act by advocating the election of individual candidates on Guy Nunn's television show.

Commenting on the jury acquittal, UAW Sec.-Treas. Emil Mazey declared:

"That decision is solid confirmation of the UAW's long-standing position that a union has the right in a free society to communicate with its members on any subject of interest to the membership or to working people generally, including political matters. The fact that the UAW chose to avail itself of all media of communication, including radio and television, in its educational activities, does not alter that basic right.

"Today's jury decision should bring to a halt the invective and abuse which have been heaped on the UAW by self-seeking Republicans in Washington, particularly Senators Goldwater, Curtis and Mundt."

Michigan Republicans took the verdict sourly. One said it would open the door for corporations to spend money on "political broadcasts" while State Republican Chairman Lawrence Lindemer declared that it made the UAW the "political colossus of Michigan and the United States."

## Ask Health Insurance Coverage for Retired

WASHINGTON—The AFL-CIO seeks Social Security law amendment to provide hospitalization insurance coverage for retired persons because such insurance is not practically available for such persons at a time when they need it most.

This is the way Nelson Cruikshank, director of the AFL-CIO Dept. of Social Security, and Andrew J. Biemiller, director of the AFL-CIO Dept. of Legislation, expressed labor's position on improvements of the law sought in the next session of Congress.

"We find it's very difficult for those over 65 to obtain proper (hospitalization insurance) protection," said Biemiller in an interview on "As We See It," AFL-CIO public service program, heard over the American Broadcasting Network.

"Regardless of how great the growth has been in recent years of these voluntary health associations and the like, there has not been adequate provision made for the older person. Now furthermore, even where it is technically possible for him to get this kind of protection, the cost is generally beyond anything he can pay."

Cruikshank pointed out that hospitalization insurance is not available, except at prohibitive cost, for older people, but the cost is minimal when "spread over the entire population over an entire lifetime" as in Social Security.

"The Social Security system is the only way to spread the costs this way," he said. "The result is that all of the increases of benefits that are provided in the Forand Bill can be paid for by an additional 1 percent of payroll, split between employer and employee."

The need of such insurance for persons 65 and over is indicated, he said, in that "hospital utilization for such persons is two and one-half to three times as great as during the earlier periods of life."

## Nationwide Boycott Called On Agar Pork Products

CHICAGO, Ill.—A nationwide boycott of Agar pork products has been announced by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters & Butcher Workmen's union. The firm has been struck since Sept. 30 after Agar refused to return the acting president of the local at Agar, Leroy Green, to his job. Green was fired for union activity at the meat packing plant.

A letter from the union's executive vice-president, Harry R. Poole, to all affiliates of the AFL-CIO, declared:

"We have had no choice except to put the Agar Co. on the 'Unfair List' and to appeal to all members of the AFL-CIO as well as other consumers to halt their purchases of Agar hams, bacon, lard or any other pork products produced by this company as long as the strike lasts. For purposes of identification, Agar's Federal inspection number, which is stamped on all its products, is 282."

## New Income Tax Reporting System Has Them Furious

### Businessmen 'In An Uproar' Over Reporting Expenses

NEW YORK—Announcement by the Internal Revenue Service that it will require more strict reporting of expense accounts is sending a lot of businessmen into an "uproar" and a "rage," according to the Wall Street Journal.

Starting with the 1957 tax return, the taxpayer will be asked by the Internal Revenue Service to fill in the total amount of expense money he received from his employer during the year and attach a statement itemizing those expenses which he claims are not taxable.

Actually, a report of expense account income is not new. But in the past the information was supposed to be attached on a separate sheet. It was easy to overlook or ignore. The new line in the tax form, asking for specific information, will make it far more difficult to ignore.

Most likely to be checked more carefully, tax men agree, are the forms of employees who draw flat weekly

or monthly expense accounts (\$20 for entertaining customers, for example, or \$50 a month for operating a personal car) and those of the top company executives who receive large amounts for expenses that may not be incurred for business purposes.

Private tax advisers and accountants of some corporation officials "recall instances where companies have been less than vigilant about expense accounts for executives," states the Journal, in what many believe to be the understatement of the year.

"There are two kinds of companies that abuse the privilege," the Journal quotes one San Francisco executive. "The small ones where the owner is president and 100 percent stockholder and there is no check on him; and very large companies with a lot of stockholders."

#### Wife's Alimony, Country Club . . .

"I know of one small company," the official continues, "where the president included his wife's alimony, the country club and entertainment all under

a flat \$20,000 'business expense' account."

The Journal story quoted officials from a number of blue ribbon companies and observed: "Most people, even though they indicated they would try to work out some way to abide by the change, made no secret of their rage and resentment."

"Whatever the tax men's intention," writes the Journal, "talks with corporate executives, tax lawyers, accountants and folks who operate on expense accounts turn up widespread confusion, irritation and downright indignation over the change."

A sales promotion manager for a Chicago company is quoted as saying: "I'm Joe Blow to the Revenue boys but I'm mighty forgetful at tax report time. They're going to have to get tough—real tough—before they see my cheat sheet."

The big question posed is what are legitimate expenses and what are not. The tax men indicate they're leery of hunting trips, out-of-town sports events and such as "business" expenses, and will disallow them.





**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNOR** attends 12th Annual dinner-dance of Outlet dept. store employees, members of RWDSU's Local 442 in Providence, R. I. Gov. Dennis J. Roberts (r.), shown with Nat Kushner, secretary-treasurer of New England Joint Board, was main speaker at affair, attended by 550 members. Local President Grace Barney, assisted by Sec.-Treas. Helen Rose and the Executive Board, headed the dance committee for the successful affair.

## 5-Week Strike Wins Contract For Local 50 at Necco Candy

NEW YORK CITY—Wage gains of as much as 26 cents an hour, employer-paid Welfare Plan coverage and other conditions of a typical Local 50 contract were racked up in a first pact covering the employees of Necco Candy Company's warehouse here, Pres. Frank Scida reported.

The settlement came after more than five weeks of striking, which included picketing the company's plant in Boston, Mass. for one week early this month. The strike here and the picketing in Boston had the full support of Teamster locals in both cities, as well as the Bakery & Confectionery Union.

With the help of Teamster Local 25, and the RWDSU's New England Joint Board, Scida said, the union was able to make its strength strongly felt in Boston, and the employer was convinced of the wisdom of negotiating with Local 50 in good faith. In New York, Teamster Local 807 members, who work as drivers for Necco, gave full respect to Local 50 picketlines. Leading the picketing in Boston were Local 50 Org. Tony Scida and Alphonse Perdoni of the warehouse.

Company attempts to enjoin the un-

ion from picketing the Boston plant failed. Even as the injunction was in the court process, the company decided to sit down with the union to negotiate a contract. The employer had held out since Aug. 22, when the workers voted for Local 50 in a National Labor Relations Board election.

The wage increases won bring the rates to a range of \$1.65 to \$2 an hour. Previously they ranged from \$1.39 an hour. In addition, the workers, led in negotiations by Scida, won unlimited sick leave with pay, 10 paid holidays a year, paid vacations, time and a half for holidays worked, time and a half after 8 hours' work, the union shop and other benefits.

## Meany Hits Jewelry Union As Main Offender Against Puerto Ricans in New York

NEW YORK CITY—AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany last week issued an ultimatum to the Int'l Jewelry Workers Union to end abuses of Puerto Rican workers by its locals and to adhere to provisions of the AFL-CIO ethical practices code. He gave the union until Nov. 25 to comply.

Pres. Meany's ultimatum came about as a result of a meeting Nov. 8 with New York labor leaders who have been directly involved in the AFL-CIO campaign to end the exploitation of Puerto Rican workers by certain unions. Among those attending the meeting was District 65 Organization Dir. Bill Michel-

son. The local officials told Meany, according to reports in the metropolitan newspapers, that the jewelry union was the worst offender in the city in granting "sweetheart" contracts to employers, and that it was using obstructionist tactics to prevent genuine organization of thousands of workers.

### Involved in Styl-Rite Case

The demand by Pres. Meany that the Jewelry Workers Union end various abuses recalled that a local of that union had been involved in the Styl-Rite Optical Co. strike earlier this year, when 200 workers sought to throw off a "sweetheart" contract that shackled them to \$1-an-hour wages and miserable conditions. Their successful efforts to win a District 65 contract included five weeks on the picket line.

Pres. Meany was reported by the New York papers as having said that 53 complaints against eight separate jewelry union locals had been turned over to him by the AFL-CIO committee. He recalled too that an Auto. Workers representative who had been invited to supervise the cleaning up of one jewelry local had quit after three weeks, declaring it was futile to try to correct malpractices in that union.

Meany also inquired of Hyman Powell, secretary-treasurer of the jewelry union, about an "industrial production workers joint welfare fund" in which Jewelry Workers' Local 8 and 122 were reported to participate. The broker for the fund, according to the report, was Powell's wife; the administrator was Powell's nephew, and the attorney, Powell's cousin.

The union, Meany declared, was violating labor's code of ethics in "many respects." Among these were listed inadequate audit of union funds, improper elections, no bonding of officers, and a lack of regular membership meetings.

## '585' Improves Welfare Benefits

NEW YORK CITY—Local 585 has made substantial improvements in its welfare plan, as well as extending certain benefits to members' dependents, Pres. John Freeman announced. Members of the local work mainly in book and stationery stores around the city.

Effective immediately, dental services will be broadened to include extraction as well as examination, cleaning and X-rays, which were in effect before. Optical benefits will now include bi-focal lenses in addition to the regular glasses available before.

Both these services, which are free of charge to members, will henceforth be available to their dependents (wives, husbands, children) at nominal cost. Dental services will cost \$4 for examination, cleaning and X-rays, and charges for extractions will run from \$3 to \$5 depending on the type. Eye-glasses are now available to members' families at \$6 a pair.

Meanwhile, Freeman reported, the union and the employer of Batlin & Horowitz stationery have agreed to submit the issues of a new contract to arbitration by the State Board of Mediation. Key issue for the 27 workers is the demand for elimination of compulsory overtime work of five to seven hours a week, with the same weekly earnings on a 40-hour basis. Winning this demand would bring the workers raises averaging about \$7 a week, Freeman said.

Also reported were the deaths of two long-time members of the local—Peter Bohn of Batlin & Horowitz, and Max Silberger of Faber, Inc. The beneficiaries of both received the death benefit of \$1,000.

## Drug Local Signs Hudson Vitamin Co.

NEW YORK CITY—A whirlwind campaign to organize 40 employees at Hudson Vitamin Products was successfully concluded by Retail Drug Local 1199 with the signing of an agreement providing for a \$10 package over a two-year period.

The organizing victory, one of the most significant in recent years for Local 1199, was overwhelmingly ratified at a well-attended meeting of the workers at union headquarters.

The agreement provides for an \$8 wage increase for all workers, \$5 now and \$3 next year; minimum hiring rates formerly as low as \$40 were hiked to \$47.50 effective immediately, and going to \$50 next year; as well as increases in higher skilled categories coverage under the 1199 Benefit Plan, 5 days sick leave, severance pay in case of layoffs and seniority provisions.

The drive was sparked by Division Director George Glotzer, assisted by Organizer Karl Rath. The contract signing came after several protracted negotiating sessions with company officials and was finally consummated at the offices of the New York State Mediation Board with the aid of mediators, Louis Yagoda and Harold I. Panken.



**HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS** are recalled for New York's Fifth Avenue shopping crowds by District 65 to dramatize Bonwit Teller shoe department management's approach to its employees' wages and working conditions. Strike started Nov. 2 over company's refusal to bargain in good faith on a first contract. The 75 shoe salesmen voted to be represented by District 65 in an NLRB election ten months ago, have been waiting in vain for company to make an offer of settlement since then.

—Record Photo by Arthur Calles



## The Midwest

# Third Broughton Dairy Votes to Join RWDSU

MARIETTA, O.—Eighty employees of the main Broughton Dairy plant in this city voted by nearly two to one to join Local 379 of the RWDSU in a National Labor Relations Board election on Nov. 6, Regional Dir. Gerald Hughes reported. The vote was 43 for the RWDSU, 5 for the Teamsters, and 23 for no union.

The victory for '379' came not long after Broughton workers in the Quaker City, O., and Huntington, W. Va., branch plants won their first contracts as RWDSUers, having voted for the union in elections last July. Another Broughton operation in Charleston, W. Va., is now in the midst of an organizing campaign under the RWDSU banner.

The drive to sign up the main plant

began last July under the on-the-spot leadership of Organizer Bill Kee, working under the direction of Hughes. It went fairly smoothly until the Labor Board hearing on the union's petition for an election. The company demanded that the eligible voters include employees who are not part of the plant unit, and it took some weeks before the NLRB ruling arrived, upholding the union.

### Big Meeting Before Vote

A high spot of the campaign was the meeting of Broughton employees the night before the election. A healthy turnout of the plant heard rank and file speakers from the Quaker City and Huntington plants tell of the gains they had won through the union only weeks before, and Unit Chairman Russ Hall was there with three co-leaders of the Borden plant in Zanesville, O.

The results of that meeting were told in the election results the next day.

Just a week after they had voted the union in, the Broughton main plant membership met, worked up their contract proposals, and elected a negotiating committee. Headed by Chairman Richard Bartmess, the committee includes Delbert Westbrook, Herbert Woody, Clyde Scott, Bernard Hines, William Hawkins, and Keith Treadway.

### 1064 Sweeps Cafeteria Vote At Ford Plant in Ypsilanti

DETROIT, Mich.—RWDSU Local 1064 won a landslide victory in a Nov. 12 NLRB election among cafeteria employees of the Prophet Company, which operates the cafeteria at the Ford Motor Co. Rawsonville Plant in Ypsilanti Township, Mich.

Of 24 eligible workers, 22 cast their ballots for the RWDSU, Local 1064 Business Manager Paul Domeny reported.



"It's a good thing unions can't investigate us!"

## Scholarship Fund in Ohio

PORTSMOUTH, O.—The Borden Co. unit of Local 612 has set up a \$200 scholarship for members' children who have maintained a high school grade of "B" and wish to attend an accredited college or university. James Williams is chairman of the unit.

The scholarship idea grew out of a fund built by fines paid by local members who failed to attend membership meetings. A member was fined \$2 each time he missed a meeting. The accumulated money is invested until the scholarship is awarded.

Children whose parents have been members of Local 612's Unit B for 12 months are eligible to apply for the scholarship. When more than one student applies for the scholarship, a college ability test, administered by an impartial person, decides the winner.

Students interested in the scholarship are required to make written application to the Scholarship Committee by April 1st, stating the type of study they desire and their choice of college or university. If there is an eligible recipient at the close of the 1957-58 school year, the first scholarship will be awarded then.

## New Rexall Warehouse Off To Good Start—Union Pact

COLUMBUS, O.—The Rexall Drug Company's new warehouse here has started off right—with a new RWDSU contract. Regional Dir. Gerald Hughes reported settlement of the contract, and unanimous ratification by the workers on Nov. 8.

It is expected that the present work force of 35 will expand greatly after Jan. 1 to enable the plant to supply Rexall-franchised stores in a five-state area in the middle west.

The workers voted for Local 379 in a National Labor Relations Board election last Aug. 29, after an organizing campaign led by Hughes. The lead to the new plant came from Int'l Rep. Buck Connell in Atlanta, Ga., where Rexall warehouse workers belong to the RWDSU. Connell informed Hughes that the company was planning a new warehouse in Columbus, and he also advised the firm that Local 379 represented the same RWDSU with which the company has had good relations over the years in Atlanta.

The workers were enthusiastic about

the settlement, since it achieved their main aims—substantial wage boosts and effective job security and grievance procedure. Wage increases range from 10 to 35 cents an hour, bringing rates to a minimum of \$1.45 and a top of \$1.75 an hour. The union negotiators won a reduction in the time it takes to reach the top rate in each job category, from the former 21 months down to one year. In 6 months all employees now on the job will have reached the top of their wage range.

The contract provides for the union shop, arbitration as the final step in the grievance set-up, and seniority rules which apply in promotions to better jobs, overtime distribution and vacation preferences.

An existing company welfare plan was extended to members' dependents and to members on lay-off up to 3 months. The life insurance feature was also improved, so that members can continue to be covered, at their own expense, after they leave the job.

The settlement came after about six weeks of negotiations, with sessions held on Thursday and Friday of each week. Hughes and Organizer Ned Harkness led the shop bargaining committee, which included Unit Chairman Delmar Williams, Vice-Chairman George Ellis, Exec. Sec. Barbara Black, Mary Griffin and John Cummings.

## Steelworker Meeting on TV

PITTSBURGH (PAI)—The union meeting came to hundreds to thousands of Steelworkers last week rather than the other way around. The first of the United Steelworkers' monthly meetings on TV went on over 29 stations in various parts of the country. It consisted of a 15 minute film reporting on the benefits the union helped to provide for 460 workers made jobless by the closing of a zinc plant in Donora, Pa.

The union members were asked to listen to the program in their homes with their wives, children and neighbors. It was also there for the public to "look over our shoulder and see how a big, influential union operates."

## Cook County CIO Honors RWDSU's Chicago Joint Board

CHICAGO, Ill.—For "consistently developing and implementing programs that help solve the problems of the worker and the community," the RWDSU's Chicago Joint Board won an award this month from the Cook County CIO Council.

Presentation was made at a Council Community Services Conference at the Hotel Sherman on Nov. 2. Singled out for praise were the Joint Board's eye care and blood bank programs, its work in behalf of the hundreds of workers who lost their jobs two years ago when the big Carr-Consolidated biscuit plant burned to the ground, and its "dynamic action in exposing and wiping out a vicious job-selling racket" at the Leaf Brands candy plant, about one year ago.

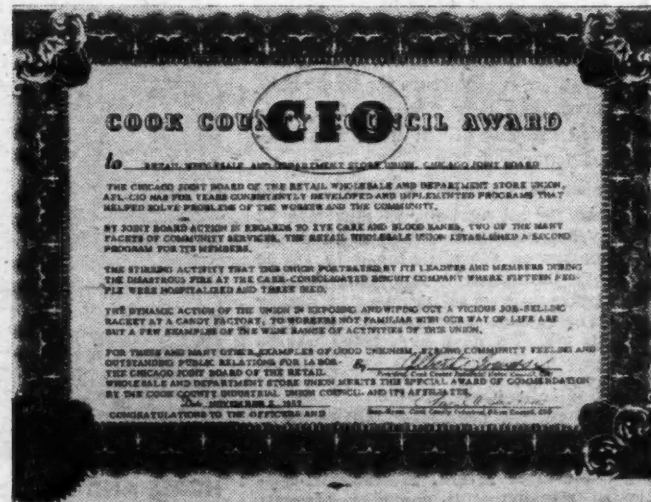
The Joint Board's efforts in the Leaf Brands situation, led by Pres. Henry B. Anderson, was a dramatic example of the union's feeling of responsibility for the well-being of its members. Enlisting the help of government agencies and employing other investigating agents, the Joint Board got to the bottom of job-selling racket which preyed on Spanish-speaking workers, most of them newly arrived in this country.

### Racket Wiped Out

The long, and at times even dangerous job of locating witnesses and then of convincing them to testify against the racket operators—in the face of threats of violence—was consistently and

thoroughly carried out by the union. After months of work, the case was brought to a successful close, and steps were taken in conjunction with the Leaf Brand management to wipe out the racket.

Some in attendance at the Cook County CIO conference predicted that Chicago newspapers would either bury this story of a union's good works deep on the inside pages, or not handle it at all. So far, they're right.



Text of award spells out Chicago Joint Board accomplishments in eye care and blood bank programs, defense of workers who lost jobs in Carr-Consolidated fire, and exposure of job-selling racket.



Special Award for outstanding community services goes to Chicago Joint Board from Cook County CIO Council. Joint Board Rep. Manuel Galladora (r.) accepts award from Council Sec.-Treas. Paul Inadino.



# Agreement Won at Miami Men's Wear Chain

MIAMI, Fla.—A first agreement has been scored by the RWDSU in the retail industry here, Regional Dir. Harry Bush reported. Terms of a settlement were concluded with Ben-Hil Shirt Shops, a men's haberdashery chain with two stores in this city and two in Miami Beach. Direct participation by RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg and Vice-Pres. Martin Koppel in the organizing campaign and the contract negotiations played a vital part in the settlement. RWDSU Local 721 in New York, of which Koppel is manager, has the firm's New York City stores under contract.

## Election Near At Dairy in Durham, N. C.

DURHAM, N.C.—The National Labor Relations Board has rejected claims by management of Long Meadow Farms aimed at delaying or avoiding altogether an election among the 80 employees of the firm's plant here. The Board has ordered an election to be held within 30 days of the date of its order, Nov. 13.

Regional Dir. Irving Lebold, who heads the organizing campaign at this large independent dairy with organizer R. W. Parker, said efforts were being made to have an election before the Thanksgiving holiday, which begins Nov. 28.

The workers began signing up in the RWDSU in a careful campaign that started last summer. A substantial majority had signed up by August, and the union filed a petition for election on the 17th of that month.

### Long Meadow Drive Spreads

Meanwhile, he said, the union is organizing the 70 employees of the other Long Meadow operations.

The company pays low wages in comparison with earnings of RWDSU dairy workers elsewhere in the South, and the workers are forced to seek overtime work in order to make a bare living. Before the union came on the scene the only improvement in wages during the past year came as a result of the rise in the federal minimum wage to \$1 an hour.

Lebold cited cases of workers in the plant 15 years and more earning less than \$1.15 an hour. Route salesmen do a little better than plant employees, but they are subjected to unfair working conditions, Lebold said.

Soon after the union came on the scene the company gave out wage boosts ranging from \$2.50 to \$4 a week, and it appears that further increases may be forthcoming before the election.

Lebold said the workers immediately saw in the wage increases proof that the company appreciates the union's strength. They feel also that a big vote for the RWDSU in the coming election can bring substantial wage improvements and changes in working conditions in post-election negotiations.



PRES. MAX GREENBERG



VICE-PRES. MARTIN KOPPEL

They Aided Miami Retail Organizing Victory.

The victory at Ben-Hil represents an important breakthrough in the RWDSU's campaign to organize retail stores in the Miami area, and is expected to lead to other victories soon, especially in the men's wear field.

Conditions of the settlement which the employees ratified unanimously, include an immediate reduction in working hours to 48 a week from a former work week of as high as 56 hours. There will be no more split shifts. Job protection is strengthened by such provisions as a basic crew, which guarantees continuous employment all year round to those presently on the job. Also negotiated was store-wide seniority, a grievance procedure with arbitration as the final step, and a 30-day trial period for new employees, after which they start to accumulate seniority.

### Earnings Boosted \$7 to \$8

Earnings are boosted by a new commission arrangement. Where before the men received a flat 2% on all sales, now sales up to \$500 will bring 2%, from \$500 to \$1,000 will bring 2½%, and \$1,000 and more will be compensated at 3% commission. Estimates are that the new set-up will mean \$7 to \$8 more per week in earnings.

Other provisions of the agreement are an additional week's paid vacation, for a total of 2 weeks after one year's service; 7 paid holidays instead of 4; 6 days' paid sick leave, and time and a half for Sunday work. Also, the employer has agreed to make payments covering the employees by a union welfare plan when it is established here.

Such a plan will be set up when the union completes organization among the substantial number of retail workers now working to bring the union into their shops. Bush said about two dozen shops are organizing, with majorities signed up in many of them.

Letters have been sent to a number of these firms asking for recognition of the union and for negotiations for RWDSU contracts. Among these are Todd & Todd, Cy Clyde, Irving Berlin, Stephens, Inc., Edward Steckler, Leighton's, Cripps, Ltd., and Lunines. Most of these firms are affiliates of New York stores under contract with Local 721.

The Ben-Hil settlement is another example of close linking of RWDSU organizing efforts in the South with the union's locals in the northern part of the nation, and particularly New York, where RWDSU strength is most highly concentrated.

The Ben-Hil campaign called to Pres. Greenberg's mind the drive to organize the Lerner Shops office and warehouse in Atlanta, Georgia a year ago, the more recent A. Cohen & Sons warehouse organization in the same city, and other examples.

"In all these cases," Pres. Greenberg said, "our locals in the north and the South worked as teams, and their willing co-operation with one another produced victories in which the International Union as a whole can take just pride, as well as the individual locals concerned."

### Junkins Heads Local 405

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—Lester H. Junkins was reelected president of Bakery Local 405 in voting which saw 75% of the local's members turn out for the elections at a meeting on Nov. 16. Junkins replaces Olan Waldrop, who died on June 3.

Max Wilson won the vice-presidency over the opposition of Louis Byars. Running unopposed, Aline Todd was elected secretary, and Woody Albright treasurer.

## A & P Employees in Knoxville Ask Senators Speed Election

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—A & P employees in nine supermarkets in this vicinity are taking into their own hands the matter of blasting out a collective bargaining election and ending months of stalling.

As they neared the end of the fifth month of waiting while the National Labor Relations Board sits on their petition, Int'l Rep. Ed Rosenhahn reported a campaign of letter writing by each member to Tennessee's two senators and to the NLRB in Washington.

The great majority of the stores' 150 employees are signed up in the RWDSU. They are addressing appeals to Senators Kefauver and Gore to intercede with the NLRB so that it will give the workers the opportunity to vote for the union of their choice.

The employees took this new tack as the company continued the pressures it has been applying for the past several months in attempts to keep the union out.

Wage increases to selected employees during the past month have been accompanied by a stepping up of work loads on each individual worker. Rosenhahn said some employees are now doing the work that two and even three people did before.

These and other union-busting practices, many of them open violations of the law, are in the process of being documented for presentation to the Senate Committee on Corrupt Practices in the Labor or Management Fields. The Com-

mittee, headed by Senator McClellan of Arkansas, is now investigating management practices, and is slated to bring its hearings to Tennessee in the near future.

### Local 315 in Atlanta, Ga. To Elect Officers Dec. 6

ATLANTA, Ga.—Members of Local 315 met on Nov. 13 and nominated officers to be elected at a Dec. 6th meeting of the Local's 500 members. The local represents workers in retail and wholesale shops, including the big Lerner Shops' warehouse and office here.

D. W. McRae and Ralph Bivens will compete in the elections for the presidency, and Willie Burke will oppose Ronald Mathias for the vice-presidency. Grace Harris, C.P. Johnson, Mary Nell Barrington and Peggy Booth are in the race for financial secretary. Bertha Caldwell and Marie Butts will compete for the position of recording secretary.

A three-way race for sergeant-at-arms includes Herby Louis, Alex Church and Lorenzo Adkins. For chaplain L. Porter, Alex Church and Ivy Paris are presenting themselves for choice by the members.

## Defeated RCIA Throws Monkey Wrench

# Grand Union Run-Off Vote Stalled

MIAMI, Fla.—The employees of ten Grand Union Supermarkets in this city last week found their hopes of quickly winning their first RWDSU contract are not yet to be realized, thanks to the obstructionist tactics of a local of the Retail Clerks Int'l Association. Even though it no longer has any claim to represent the Grand Union employees, the RCIA is taking advantage of National Labor Relations Board procedures to challenge the results of the Oct. 31 election in which it was decisively defeated by the RWDSU.

Objections were filed by the RCIA in an effort to set aside the election results, and thus prevent a run-off in which only the RWDSU and "no union" would be on the ballot. In the Oct. 31 voting, the RWDSU received 77, the RCIA 33 and 60 voted for "no union." A run-off became necessary because there was no clear majority for the RWDSU, even though it tallied the highest vote.

RWDSU Regional Dir. Harry Bush bit-

terly condemned the RCIA's action. "The RCIA was decisively rejected by the workers at the polls on Oct. 31," he declared. "They are obstructing a run-off election only to stop the workers from exercising the right to the union of their choice—the RWDSU—and are thus preventing collective bargaining to improve the wages and conditions of these employees."

Even the company dismissed the RCIA's charges as mere stalling. William W. Brady, executive vice-president of Grand Union, was quoted in the Miami News of Nov. 13 as saying that "The Clerks union is merely trying to delay the run-off

election which the NLRB was about to schedule."

The tactics now being used by the Retail Clerks are in line with their conduct during the campaign before the election on Oct. 31. They intervened after a substantial number of the employees had signed up in the RWDSU, and then proceeded to try to smear the RWDSU, an act which brought from R. J. Thomas, assistant to AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany, a public statement condemning the smears as "false and misleading, and designed to hurt the cause of true trade unionism."



## Canada

# \$6 Average Hikes at Dominion in 6 Cities

TORONTO, Ont.—A contract settlement affecting about 150 employees of Dominion Stores in six cities has met the chief aim of the union in narrowing the gap in wages between these smaller stores and the company's supermarkets in this city and vicinity.

Members of Local 414 in Toronto's stores enjoy higher wages mainly by virtue of the higher standards which generally prevail in the big city as against the smaller towns in the province.

General wage increases ranging from \$4 to \$14 a week were won, with the average boost \$6 a week. In addition, a graduated night bonus was set up, providing an extra \$1 to workers who work to 7 or 8 p.m.; \$1.30 to those who stay until 8:30 p.m., and \$1.60 to those working until 9 p.m.

It was pointed out that the retail work-week in Canada is still generally 45 hours, with time and a half going into effect after that.

### Sick Leave at 2 Stores

The six stores are located in Kingston, Trenton, Richmond Hill, Aylmer, Prescott and Brockville. Employees of two of the stores—in Aylmer and Prescott—won paid sick leave for the first time, providing 75% of earnings for 12 days. Thereafter the sick benefit plan covering the entire Dominion chain goes into effect. The other four stores had already been covered by paid sick leave.

Meanwhile, the 55 employees of Na-

tional Grocers' Mimico store, in a suburb of Toronto, ratified a settlement providing wage boosts of 4 cents an hour retroactive to July 6; 2 cents an hour towards the sick benefit plan, and a 5-day instead of the former 5½-day week.

Contract negotiations at the same company's Brantford store have gotten practically nowhere, with management silent on the workers' demand for 15-cent hourly wage increases. The case has been submitted to conciliation.

## Six New Shops Join in Ontario

TORONTO, Ont.—Local 414, union of retail and wholesale workers in this province, reports the organization of about 125 new members in six shops during the past few weeks.

Three of the new shops are in negotiations for first contracts. They are Lewis Bros., a hardware wholesaler with a small retail operation; Gamble & Robinson, wholesale food; and Silverstein's Market. Lewis Bros., employing 36 workers, is scheduled to go before a conciliation officer, but it was reported that agreement was likely before that became necessary.

The Gamble shop, located in London, Ont., has been in negotiations for a few weeks, as has Silverstein's Market, also in London.

Certification was won at Campbell's, a wholesale food house, in Brantford, after the employer's best efforts to keep the union out had failed. In Windsor, Central Chevrolet Motors was organized, with 14 new car salesmen joining up. A hearing on certification was being held last week, as The Record went to press.

In this city, the restaurant workers at Malton Airport, which serves Toronto, have joined up, and they await a Labor Board hearing on certification which is due Nov. 27. There are 47 employees here, and an organizing campaign has been launched among the 100 workers at the flight kitchen, operated by the same Aero Catering Co. The latter group prepares the food served on the planes.

## 15 Rail Unions Ask 35c Wage Increases

OTTAWA (CPA)—Demands by Canada's 15 non-operating rail unions made public here recently include a wage boost of 11 percent plus 17c per hour (a package of about 35 cents hourly); severance pay of 4 cents per hour; 1 extra paid statutory holiday (Nov. 11); \$8.50 per month extra for health and welfare to be paid by the companies; a work-ownership clause to prevent contracting-out; and vacations of 2 weeks after 1 year, 3 weeks after 10 years and 4 weeks after 15 years.

Frank H. Hall, chairman of the non-ops General Conference Committee, replied to company charges that the unions' demands are exorbitant by pointing out that preliminary statements of the sort made by management might prejudice the whole bargaining question by "engendering unnecessary heat and contention."

Mr. Hall said that the increased demands stem from the fact that railway workers' wages have been running behind the wage levels of workers in other allied industries.

# Threat of Large-Scale Unemployment Has Everyone Worried

By H. G. HOWITH,  
Cooperative Press Association

OTTAWA—Canada's "seasonal" winter unemployment, which recurs year after year, has been the subject of political maneuvering, government evasion—and serious questioning of the value of "free" enterprise.

By next March, however, a half million Canadians are expected to be without jobs and seeking work, according to Canadian Labor Congress research director Dr. Eugene Forsey. If Dr. Forsey's grim prediction becomes a reality—and there is so far every indication that it will—the half million jobless will represent the second largest number of unemployed since the end of the Second World War. (In March 1955, over 632,000 were out of work.)

The facts support the labor movement's fears.

At least five Canadian cities have been declared surplus labor areas by the Unemployment Insurance Commission, according to Labor Minister Starr. The five—Windsor and Tilbury in Ontario, Springhill and New Glasgow in Nova Scotia, and St. Stephen, N.B.—will likely be joined by Kitimat, B.C., Montreal and others.

The B.C. Federation of Labor has warned that possibly 80,000 workers would be jobless in the province this winter. At Kitimat, some 1,700 workers will be laid off, according to the Sagnay-Kitimat Company,

the subsidiary construction firm for the Aluminum Company of Canada. Alcan has decided not to expand aluminum production facilities there. The labor force in Kitimat is about 7,000—and 2,500 are expected to be jobless there this winter.

The city of Montreal expects that 30,000 will be without work there by Christmas. Montreal's working force is about 800,000. In September, 25,793 persons were registered at Montreal UIC offices. Last March (March is usually considered the worst month) 50,482 were out of work. With a prospect of 30,000 jobless for Christmas, the situation by March could be quite a bit worse than last year, which was bad enough.

And in Windsor, which has been suffering all summer, more than 1,500 citizens jammed the Palace Theatre in a rally for action called by the Windsor and District Labor Council. After an address by Canadian UAW Director George Burt, five resolutions were approved without a dissenting vote.

The resolutions:

● Called on the government to protect secondary industries by implementing protective tariffs against the importation of parts for autos;

● Asked that the Tory administration "accept its responsibility to plan for and to protect the economic security of all its citizens" by establishing in the Windsor area a specific list of industries which would require between 200 and 1,000 workers each;

● Demanded that the government start the follow-

ing public works projects: a new post office, a new CNR station, harbor facilities, and a sewage disposal plant. Aid to the municipality for its new civic center was also requested, and the provincial government was asked to begin construction on its proposed government building immediately.

● Asked for amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act to provide for regular benefits to ill workers at two-thirds of earnings at all levels, benefits to be payable for a maximum of 52 weeks, elimination of the waiting period, and a provision that, when an area is declared a surplus labor area, supplemental seasonal benefits be continued for the duration of the period;

● Demanded that the provincial government enter immediately into an agreement with the federal government to provide proper assistance for unemployed who have exhausted all benefits under the federal act, asked the Windsor city council to press the provincial government to implement this measure, and asked the city council to increase its individual assistance benefits substantially.

These are only a few indications of a fear which is nation-wide. CCF members of the House of Commons—and some liberals as well—have asked pointed questions of Labor Minister Starr, for the most part drawing his attention to conditions in the members' home ridings, and asking him what he intends to do about it.

## labor oddities



## Boss Failed to Enroll Them In Health Plan — He Pays Bill

WINDSOR, Ont.—Three Windsor Hotel employees of the firm's Sarnia establishment have received payment for medical expenses they had to bear because their employer failed to enroll them in the welfare plan provided for under the union contract, Int'l Rep. Walter Kensit reported.

Ray Beatty received \$539.30, Burkhardt Koldeway was paid \$150; Mickey Lafrombois \$18.75, and John Budziewicz, \$9.

A few months ago, Local 448, of which the hotel workers are members, won an arbitration decision which ruled that it is the company's responsibility to enroll all employees in the welfare plan. The hotel in Sarnia has since gone out of business.

In this city, negotiations continue with Dominion Stores, employing 20 workers. A settlement was expected soon. Negotiations are also continuing at Murphy Tobacco Wholesalers.

In London the hotel employees were scheduled to elect officers at a membership meeting on Nov. 17. They were also slated to discuss contract demands and to hold a special hearing on the appeal of a suspended member, Michael Principe, as provided by the International constitution.

## First Kingston Dairy Organized in RWDSU

KINGSTON, Ont.—Sixty employees of the Hemlock Park Dairy have won their first RWDSU contract, which brings them wage increases ranging from \$4 to \$18 a week, the union shop and other substantial gains. The dairy is the first in the industry to be organized in this city, on the northeast shore of Lake Ontario.

The new contract also provides hospitalization, medical care, sick benefits and life insurance coverage on an equal share-cost basis; paid vacations of 1 week after 1 year, 2 weeks after 2 years, and 3 weeks after 15 years on the job; 8 paid holidays, with time and a half for work on those days.

Int'l Rep. George Barron led the shop committee in the negotiations. Committee members were Chairman James Carigan, Angus McDonnell and Frank Maurits.



## feature Section

# Why N. Y. Labor Opposes Rate Hike For Blue Cross

Harold Faggen, consultant to union welfare funds, demonstrates how Blue Cross surplus has grown.

By MAX STEINBOCK

Twenty-two years ago, when the United States was still struggling to emerge from its six-year-old economic depression, a group of New Yorkers got together to do something about the high cost of hospital care—especially its devastating effect on low-income and middle-income families. They came up with an answer: Associated Hospital Service of New York, or Blue Cross, as it is popularly known. This organization undertook to provide pre-paid hospital care to subscribers, and thus enable the families it covered to budget for illnesses and accidents requiring hospitalization.

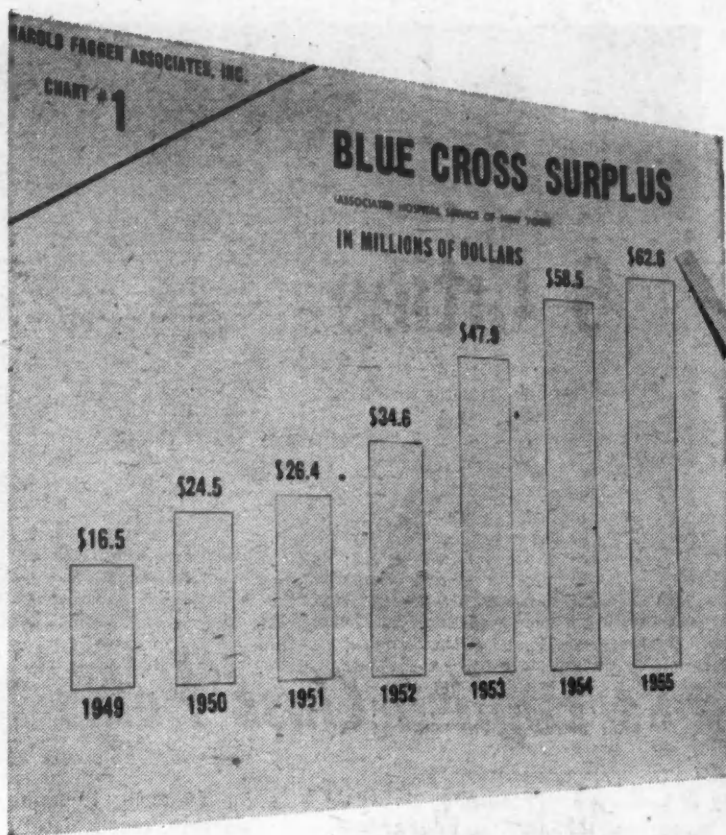
Since 1935, Blue Cross of New York has grown mightily to its present enrollment of nearly 7,000,000 persons. The very size of this huge institution, plus the fact that it is a "non-profit" organization, have for years made it almost immune to public criticism. But these days, New York's Blue Cross is being subjected to very sharp criticism indeed—with some of the sharpest statements coming from labor spokesmen.

While there is an immediate cause for these statements—the application by Blue Cross for State permission to raise its rates by 40 percent—labor dissatisfaction with a number of Blue Cross policies is a matter of long standing that has now been brought into sharp focus. And the two unprecedented actions taken by New York State Insurance Supt. Leffert Holz—a public hearing Nov. 18 and 19 on the Blue Cross rate increase application, and an audit of Blue Cross books and records—can be traced directly to the labor protest over an earlier Blue Cross request for an increase—which was withdrawn after the protest.

### The Blue Cross Case For An Increase

Blue Cross bases its request on its financial statement which, it says, shows that the organization is operating at a deficit and that it is eating up its surplus at an ever-increasing rate. This claim is being challenged by labor spokesmen, as will be seen below. Nevertheless, it is a fact that hospital costs are rising. It is also a fact that hospital wages are substandard, and as a result, according to Blue Cross spokesmen, "hospitalized patients are not getting the quality of care which is called for considering the advances of medical and hospital science in the past 20 years."

Those who support a rate increase urge that part of such an increase be used to provide additional coverage and services; as, for example, coverage for infants from date of birth rather than after 90 days; payment of anesthetists' charges; and other improve-



ments. But basically, the proposed rate boost would be used to make good the losses now being incurred by Blue Cross and to provide for further increases in costs during the next two or three years.

### Labor's Case Against An Increase

Walter L. Eisenberg, economic consultant to the AFL Central Trades and Labor Council and the New York City CIO Council, urged that the Insurance Dept. reject the Blue Cross proposals for an increase. He charged that Blue Cross reserve funds were too large; that its administrative expenses were too high; that the figures it submitted in support of its request contained errors; that subscribers—particularly labor union members—are inadequately represented on Blue Cross' Board of Directors; and that the organization does not give as much benefit to its subscribers as it can afford to provide.

Harold Faggen, a consultant to many union welfare funds, including several RWDSU affiliates, produced figures at the Nov. 19 hearing to show that Blue Cross, by understating its assets and overstating its liabilities, had reported nearly four million dollars less in its surplus than it actually had, according to his computation of their figures. And this disputed \$4,000,000 was just about the amount that Blue Cross claimed its surplus had dropped during the year of 1956.

In addition to this difference over the financial position of Blue Cross, Faggen gave four general areas in which his conclusions differ from those of Blue Cross officials. Since the facts he presented are of importance to RWDSU members in New York and elsewhere, they are summed up below:

**1. ACCUMULATING EXCESSIVE SURPLUS.** Faggen's figures show that Blue Cross surplus has risen from \$16,500,000 in 1949 to over \$62 million in 1956. The share of subscriber income going into surplus nearly doubled during this period, rising from 31.6 percent in 1949 to more than 60 percent in 1955. While the law requires that a surplus be set aside to take care of epidemics and other emergencies, Blue Cross' surplus of \$62 million is more than \$36 million higher than necessary. And yet the organization claims it needs a rate increase.

**2. INCURRING EXCESSIVE EXPENSES.** The number of Blue Cross subscribers increased 57 percent between 1948 and 1956. During the same period, management costs increased 127 percent; the cost of soliciting subscribers increased 199 percent; and advertising costs increased 2,379 percent. Administrative costs in the New York City Blue Cross plan are not only higher per subscriber than the other five plans in the state; the N.Y.C. plan is also the only one whose

cost ratio has steadily increased, despite the plan's increase in volume, which presumably should cause such costs to drop.

Some of these high administrative expenses are incurred by salaries which are surprising, to say the least, in a non-profit organization. Its president and board chairman receives \$58,769 per year, an increase of \$24,981 over his 1952 salary. At least three other executives receive over \$35,000 a year, plus expenses.

**3. INEQUITABLE PAYMENTS TO HOSPITALS.** The rates paid by Blue Cross to hospitals vary widely. The 1956 figures show that rates for semi-private care ranged from a low of \$13.24 a day to a high of \$33.74. Ward care rates ranged from \$9.98 to \$23.44 a day.

These rates are negotiated with each of the hospitals individually, and presumably are based on the hospital's own costs of providing care. However, subscribers are not informed what the rates are for any particular hospital, and thus have no way of judging whether Blue Cross funds are being used to subsidize inefficient hospitals. Further, when hospitals are given an increase, it is done on the basis of an escalator formula which penalizes hospitals that may have charged low rates in the base year and unduly rewards those whose high base rates were due to inefficient operation or unreasonable profits.

**4. FAILURE TO INFORM SUBSCRIBERS.** The Blue Cross hospital rate structure is not the only area in which it fails to inform its subscribers of its operations. An even worse example occurs in Blue Cross' Annual Report to Subscribers, which is supposed to be a "detailed record" of the organization's operations. The 1956 Report says that "Hospital Benefits" amounted to \$123,940,232—which is \$20 million more than Blue Cross actually paid to the hospitals. When confronted with this discrepancy, Blue Cross spokesmen claimed that the "Hospital Benefits" figure given in their Annual Report referred to the actual value of such benefits, or what it would have cost the hospitalized subscribers if they had had to pay the regular hospital rate. But nowhere in the report is such an explanation given.

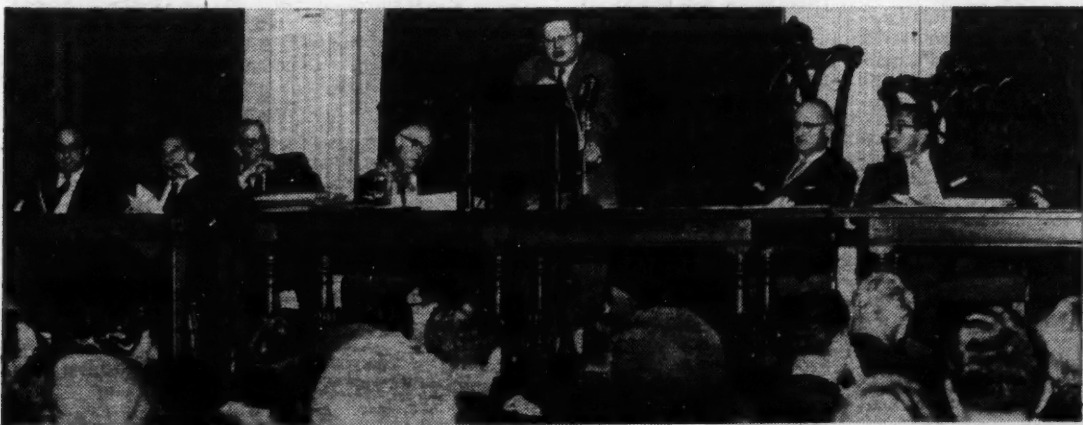
New York's Blue Cross controversy will undoubtedly continue to rage for a long time to come. But at least the debate is now out in the open. Whatever the outcome of the current fight over Blue Cross' efforts to obtain a rate increase, the public discussion will undoubtedly have wholesome effects, and the organization will be sharply reminded of the principles on which it was founded.

The New York Post, in a recent series on Blue Cross by Mitchel Levitas, quoted a government expert "who has had reason to examine Blue Cross operations from coast to coast." This is what he said about the New York organization:

"The plan in New York is one of the most backward in the country. Its basic benefits are less than comparable plans, and while the others might cost more, there is no question but that they are worth more to a seriously sick person.

"Just as important, though, is the fact that Blue Cross has not really been responsive to community organizations. Its board of directors is loaded with hospital administrators and Wall Street businessmen who may be hospital directors. . . . The truth is that they've lost touch with the community."

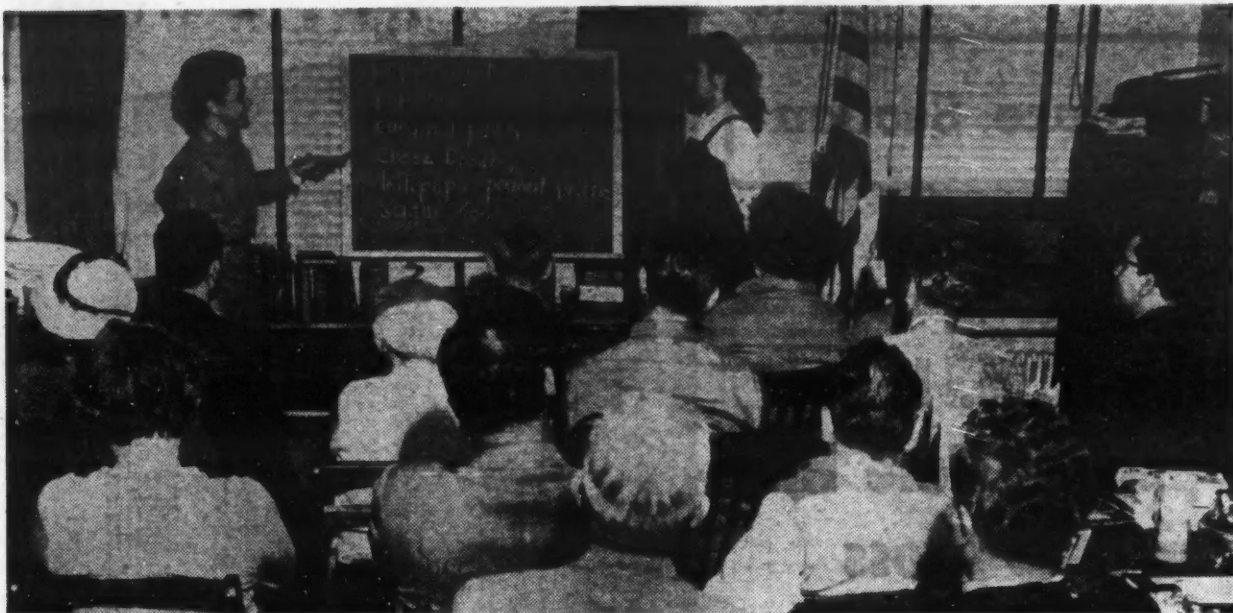
New York's trade unions are doing their best to remind the officers of Blue Cross of their responsibilities to the community. In the process, they're not only carrying a fight on behalf of their own members who are covered by Blue Cross, but also on behalf of all the plan's subscribers—and, in fact, of every person in the metropolitan area who may have to use a hospital in the years to come.



Walter L. Eisenberg, economist for AFL and CIO councils, hits rate boost demand by Blue Cross at hearing.



Candy names are among first English words learned by class in English being taught at Local 50 headquarters. In photo at right, teacher Ruth Reich drills Mercedes Rivers, newly-arrived in U. S., on words she'll need to know in her job as candy worker. Class also helps non-English speaking members qualify for better jobs and adjust more readily to their new life in U. S.



## Candy Local's English Class Helps New Americans

"Sweet-talkin' candy workers."

That's what the leaders of Candy & Confectionery Employees Local 50 are aiming to make out of the more recently-arrived immigrants among the local's membership, Local 50 Pres. Frank Scida and Sec.-Treas. Agnes De Polo declare. And they're doing it through a well-attended class in English taught by a professional teacher.

An average of 25 Spanish, French, German, Italian and Puerto Rican members of the candy local have been attending the class each week for the past nine weeks. The course will continue to run as long as

there are members who want to learn English.

In order to make the course interesting and more useful to the workers, teacher Ruth Reich uses words typical of the candy industry to teach the language. However, the lessons are not confined only to the industry, but gradually expand to a general knowledge of English grammar.

Local 50 expects to begin two additional courses for its members at the beginning of the year, one in parliamentary procedure and the other on the history of labor.

## letters to the editor:

### Backs 5 Sailors Fleeing Franco

To the Editor:

I hope we can take the time to consider the plight of five Spanish sailors who are at present engaged in a legal struggle against deportation to Spain where they would face years of imprisonment—or death. I hope you will print this, not only because of the large number of Spanish-speaking members in our union, but in defense of human rights and our union's fight against any kind of dictatorship.

As Gines Jimenez Nortes, one of the sailors testified before U.S. Judge Thurmond Clarke: "The least I would get would be six years in jail, that is if they would not shoot me."

Judge Clarke ordered the five deported but the ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a stay, asserting that important issues are involved. A.L. Wirin, southern California attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union hopes to carry the case to the Supreme Court, if necessary, but considerable expense is involved. Already, many Spaniards in exile from Franco's dictatorship and Americans interested in civil liberties have contributed—but more funds are needed.

A tragic aspect of the case is that the plight of the five sailors resulted from an inexplicable error on the part of the Mexican immigration department coupled with an unprincipled policy of expediency by the U.S. State Department.

When the five were first taken into custody by Mexican authorities—after leaving their ship in San Diego and crossing the border—they were, inexplicably, refused the traditional right of asylum and were turned over to a U.S. naval officer.

The Mexican government reversed itself and agreed to grant them political

asylum, after the case had been publicized in the Mexican press and vigorous protests resulted. But the U.S. State Department thereupon refused to permit them to return to Mexico.

The reason, according to Wirin, was that "the Spanish Embassy in Washington was exerting great pressure upon the State Department for return of the sailors."

In its legal case, the State Department relied on a treaty signed with Spain in 1902 providing that authorities of both countries can "cause to be returned to their own country such officers, seamen or other persons forming part of the crew of ships . . . who have deserted in one of the ports of the other."

The position of the Civil Liberties Union is that this treaty was superseded by one in 1908 "which expressly provides for political asylum." Furthermore the five sailors did not desert in the U.S. but lawfully left their ships in San Diego "solely for the purpose of going to Mexico." Since the men were taken into custody in Mexico—and not in the U.S.—the U.S. naval officer involved was actually acting for the Spanish government.

"The U. S. Navy is not an Immigration Service," Wirin told the court. "It is not in the business of deporting persons: it is in the business of defending us, particularly from totalitarian regimes."

The answer, given by the U.S. attorney in the case, was: "The United States government doesn't have to invoke the 1902 treaty with Spain, but it wishes to do so in the interests of better relations between the two countries. After all, Spain is now a friendly nation and the State Department is very much interested in this case."

Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, one of the five, told the court he had left his ship "because I am not in agreement

with the regime or with the laws of Spain and because I want a free country." The others testified similarly.

Just as the U.S. helped refugees from Russian oppression in Hungary gain freedom, it should be helping these five refugees from Spanish oppression gain freedom. But since in this case the U.S. puts political expediency ahead of principle, it becomes necessary to fight this case to a successful conclusion.

J. G. MALO  
New York City

### U. S. Health Need: More Federal Aid

To the Editor:

There is a great deal of food for thought, in my opinion, in the article entitled "National Health Fund" which appeared in the Nov. 10 issue of The Record. A consolidated campaign for public contributions to promote research against such afflictions as cancer, heart disease, arthritis, muscular dystrophy, etc., would undoubtedly result in eliminating much of the promotional costs and overhead which now drain away a huge proportion of the funds contributed by the public.

All of us would be much happier to see the dollars we contribute to help fight these diseases used for actual medical research and assistance to those who are afflicted, rather than financing duplicated groups of fund raisers, duplicated advertising appeals, etc.

However, I think much more needs to be said on this subject. Even if all the wasteful duplications were eliminated, and every single penny contributed by the American public to the voluntary health organizations was devoted purely to finance and subsidize medical research and assistance to those stricken by disease, it would still add up to a mere pittance of what it really takes to conquer such enemies as can-

cer, mental diseases, muscular dystrophy and heart disease.

Many of our members and their families are victims of these national cripples and killers and it seems to me that our union newspaper, in addition to the valuable educational work it has done on this subject, can help focus attention on the whole scope of this problem as a major threat to the health and well-being of our nation. Such understanding in turn would stimulate a public demand that America's great resources be marshaled more fully to meet the threat.

A recent report by the National Education Committee, Inc., contains some interesting statistical comparisons between the amount of Federal funds devoted to health research and those devoted to military endeavors. The National Education Committee points out that whereas 30 billion dollars is currently being spent annually for military defense, only 102 million dollars of Federal funds is appropriated for health research against the major killers and cripples of the American people.

The National Education Committee suggests that every citizen should urge upon Congress and the Federal Administration vastly increased appropriations for the National Institutes for Health, Cancer, Arthritis, Mental Health, Neurological Diseases and Blindness, of the U.S. Public Health Service.

It seems to me that The Record, while properly expressing concern with improving the efficiency of the voluntary health agencies, should also direct the efforts of our union membership to press for solutions of a first-class national problem with the great resources of funds, facilities and manpower that only our national, state and local governments could possibly mobilize.

IRVING BALDINGER, Administrator  
District 65 Security Plan  
New York City





Lynn Poole, left, producer and host of John Hopkins File 7 show, and Dr. James E. Birren, a leading expert, are shown during broadcast of "The Lonely Ones," a program devoted to problems of older people. On TV screen, Retired 65ers give impromptu musicale.

## Retired 65ers on Nationwide TV

Television audiences in many of the nation's largest cities got a close-up look at some of America's busiest retired citizens the weekend of Nov. 16 and 17. That Saturday and Sunday, stations on the ABC television network from New York to Los Angeles, from Miami to Seattle, from Boston to New Orleans, showed District 65's unique Retired members' activities on the renowned "John Hopkins File 7" program.

The program, called "The Lonely Ones," was a study of the problems of old age in America, and was presented by Johns Hopkins University. Millions of viewers saw and heard Dr. James E. Birren of the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, point to District 65's Retired program as an example of what can be done to deal with loneliness in old age. Pictures of various union activities were shown on the screen as the following script was broadcast:

**ANNOUNCER:** In the District 65 Center, a modernized eleven story building in downtown New York City, an attack on loneliness is being made by District 65 of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, AFL-CIO. The Union provides a full-time continuous program of activities for its retired members.

Retired people learn painting and sketching under the guidance of a skilled artist who is also a retired member of the union. Typing classes, language classes, classes in home nursing are also held as well as meetings to discuss and act on current social legislation. Other activities include a weekly social with songs,

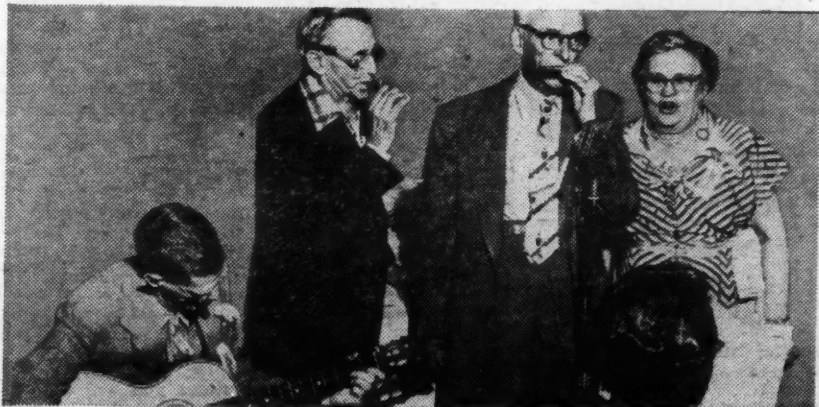
performances, films, discussion, refreshments and so on.

But the activities of this organization are not wholly recreational: toy shops, bandage workshops, and Red Cross projects are community service activities where the skills of older people can be effectively used. Field trips, outings, and trips to points of interest, such as the United Nations are educational as well as entertaining.

Regular medical check-ups are a part of the normal Union welfare activities, to which each member is entitled as a part of his membership.

The retired members of District 65 still retain their full union membership, and all the rights and privileges that go with it. They all vote on union affairs. Meeting as a self-constituted local, the retired members of District 65 plan their own programs. They even help out on organizing drives.

**DR. BIRREN:** What is interesting to me about this Union program is that it is difficult, according to the Union, for one person to find time to be lonely, although he might be alone to engage in some activity. And the older person is still participating in the Union—a significantly large part of the associations clustered about his job have remained with him. He isn't lonely and he isn't idle and he is almost doing what he did before he retired. The union has managed to make the activity of the older person meaningful. We can see in these examples how individual older people and segments of the community are making an attack on loneliness and idleness. This attack is important to all of us because we may be faced with this same problem sooner than we think.

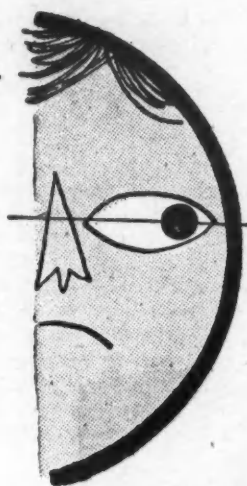


Musical at Retired 65ers' party was one of activities broadcast on ABC television network. Photo at top of page, taken during broadcast, shows same scene.



Never too old to take up hobbies, these Retired members of District 65 are busy sketching, attend art class regularly. Other classes are in typing, English, etc.





watch out for

# GYPS



## Short-Changing Tricks Cost Public Billions

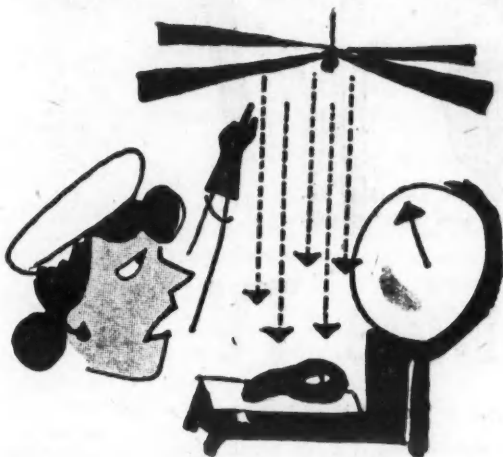
By LELAND J. GORDON

Director, Weights and Measures Research Center

Every time you go to market you should watch your weight—that is, the weighing or measuring process, and the weight of pre-packaged items. If you don't you may be the victim of one or more of the 46 methods of cheating that weights and measures officials find in current use.

Here are some of the more common tricks:

- The practice of weighing the thumb is as old as scales but some butchers prefer the button trick. Such an operator has a large button sewed securely on the front of his jacket. This catches on the edge of the weighing pan as he rises on his toes and hooks the button over the edge of the pan. Then as he resumes a normal position the pan is pressed down showing several ounces over the true weight. This is difficult to detect and even if seen it is impossible to prove in-



tent to short-weight. He can insist that his button caught on the pan by mistake.

- One of the most widely used short-changing practices takes place at the check-out counter and is known as the broom trick. When a victim of this trick arrives at the check-out counter she may have 20 or more items in her cart but no idea what the total bill should be. A careless buyer pays no attention to the check-out clerk as he tallies the items. If she were more alert she might find that she had been charged for 21 items instead of 20. If an apparently careless buyer proves to have been watching and questions the clerk, the latter counts the number of items, including a broom which is standing nearby. When the buyer insists that she did not purchase the broom the clerk apologizes and deducts its price from the total. Careless buyers buy that broom over and over in the course of a day.

- Another check-out trick is to charge the regular price for an item instead of its specially advertised price. A store may have advertised a 6-ounce jar of instant coffee at \$1.33 but unless the buyer is on the alert she may be charged the regular price of \$1.39.

- If you live in the South where ceiling fans are commonly used, a seller may be short-weighting you by two or three ounces by putting his scales under the fan. The down draft of air can depress a scale several ounces.

- Although it is illegal in many states, the merchant may pile merchandise around your side of the scale so as to conceal the indicator. Some states require that the scale be placed at eye level. If placed higher, some scales read over if a customer looks up as he reads the indicator. Another easy way to short-weight is to let an ounce or two of water or fish scales collect on the weighing pan.

- For sanitary protection the practice of weighing lard, liver, meat and poultry on a piece of thin paper is to be encouraged. But if a clerk starts to weigh your purchase in heavy paper or a carton, stop him and insist on net weight.

- The practice of reading a scale on the swing is easy. Many scales are so constructed that when an ob-

ject is dropped on the pan the indicator will swing far over before coming to rest at the true weight. A fast operator calls out the weight before the indicator comes to rest.

- Probably the most common trick, according to weights and measures officials, is that of "up-reading the price." The operator of a scale can read 59 cents instead of 55 cents and many buyers will never know the difference. This is because the seller has the advantage of a calculation chart on his side of the scale while if the buyer is going to check weight with price he must often perform a difficult mental calculation involving fractions. How quickly can you calculate the total price of an item weighing 11½ ounces and priced at 89½ cents per pound?

- Not all short-weighting and short measuring practices take place in food stores. When you drive your car into a filling station there are at least a half dozen ways in which an attendant may deliver less gasoline than is paid for. He may fail to clear the meter on the pump; or he may set the calculator fast. In West Virginia one operator set his calculator four cents fast on a gallon. When an inspector purchased ten gallons priced at 28 cents the total price shown was \$3.23 instead of \$2.80!

- In purchasing coal, fuel oil, or bottled gas, a buyer is practically at the mercy of the seller. Since the buyer has no practical way of checking the weight of a delivery all a seller has to do is assert that he delivered more than he did. In one state a dealer asserted that he put six tons in a bin that had a capacity of only four tons.

- If a delivery ticket is used, the driver of the truck may alter the figures. One driver of a fuel truck in Rhode Island kept a supply of delivery receipts in his truck, all made out. Upon completion of a delivery he chose a receipt showing more than he had delivered. No buyers ever checked him but a weight and measures inspector did.

### Most Dealers Honest

The foregoing facts were gathered by the writer, who interviewed the director of weights and measures for every state. As a generalization, weights and measures officials believe that 90 to 98 percent of all sellers are honest. Nevertheless there is a substantial volume of short-weighting and short-measuring against which you need to be on guard.

One official said: "I think more money is lost through larceny, burglary and robbery." Another state director said: "When we began to function, over 65 percent of all scales were incorrect, but this condition has been brought down to less than eight percent."

One estimate places the national average short-weight and short-measure loss at \$54 per family each year. A typical family may be paying a short-weight "tax" of as much as \$1.60 a week. This is equivalent to an eight percent sales tax on food purchases.

Whether your short-weighting "tax" is large or small depends on where you live. If you live in any one of the following thirteen states your "tax" is probably little or nothing because you have a good law which is well enforced. The states are California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mas-



sachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, West Virginia.

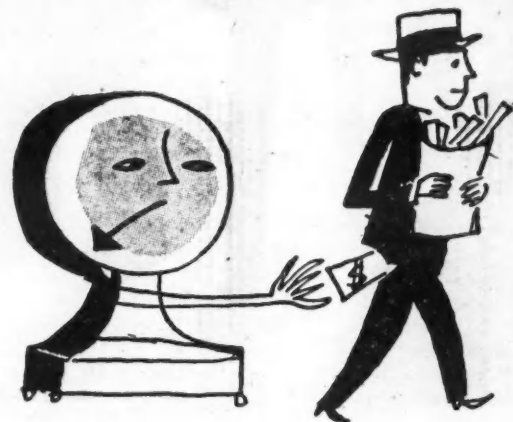
One important fact about weights and measures legislation is that there is no general federal law. As a result there is no uniformity. Although the Consti-

tution gives Congress a clear grant of power to regulate weights and measures the federal government has failed to function. As a consequence protection varies among the states.

### What To Do

Every state official was asked this question: "What suggestions do you have to offer consumers to help them protect themselves?" Here are a few of their answers:

- If you suspect short-weighting or short-measuring you should call your local inspector. Look in your directory under the heading 'Weights and Measures'



or ask City Hall for information. Save your purchase so the inspector can use it for evidence. He will make a purchase himself and if his experience is like yours he may warn the offender if it is the first offense, or prosecute him if he is a repeat violator.

- A good household scale can help you check-weight all purchases. After checking the weights of your purchases, if you find any items short, you might take them back to the store manager and give him an opportunity to correct the error. If he fails to do so or if the packages continue to weigh short you should then report to your inspector.

- Every weighing and measuring device should have a seal showing that an inspector has tested it within a year. In some states the seal is a colored sticker while in others it may be a lead seal holding a wire so placed that the operator cannot tamper with the mechanism. If you fail to find a seal ask the clerk where it is. If you fail to receive a satisfactory answer notify your local inspector.

- Watch the weighing process closely. Do not let your attention be distracted. The operator's hands are not quicker than your eyes on his hands. Notice whether the weighing pan is clean. Does the indicator rest on zero or is it set an ounce or two fast? Be sure that you are not paying for heavy wrapping paper or a carton.

- If you shop in a supermarket you will find that the Shop-O-Meter may pay for itself many times over. Recommended by a Florida inspector, the Shop-O-Meter is available in that state at Kress stores for \$1. This is a simple little adding device which you can carry in your purse or pocket. As you load your cart record the price of each item on your Shop-O-Meter. Then when reach the cashier you will already know the amount you owe and protect yourself against the broom trick.

- When purchasing gasoline and oil you should get out of your car and watch the attendant's actions closely. Never say "fill 'er up" and then go to the washroom or lunch counter. If you do that you are simply inviting short-measuring. Rather you should order a specific number of gallons. When the operator checks the oil level in your crank case stand by his side. Watch closely to see that he pushes the dip-stick down as far as it will go. Many a motorist has purchased oil when his crank case was already full.

If you follow these suggestions you will earn the reputation of being a good buyer and the clerks will be very careful to see that you receive full weight and full measure.





Local 108 Director Irving Rosenberg, r., pledges N. J. Gov. Meyner that labor would help re-elect him. Pledge was carried out Nov. 5.



RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, l., is shown on dais with N. J. Labor Commissioner Carl Holderman, former leader of State CIO. Both were guest speakers.



These three, all 20-year men in '108', received awards at convention. L. to r., Daniel Raffaele, Irving Levine, Irving Baum.



In recognition of '108' support for N. J. Camp for Blind Children, Chairman Walter Margetts, Jr., presents plaque to Exec. Vice-Pres. Meyer Meyers.

## N. J. Retail Union Steward Convention Marks 20th Year

**A** 20th anniversary local union convention can be expected to dwell at some length on the struggles and gains of the past, and even get a little misty-eyed as it recalls the old days. Local 108, the Retail Union of New Jersey, stuck to tradition at its Stewards' Convention on Oct. 20. But the '108' stewards, led by Director Irving Rosenberg, quickly addressed themselves to such immediate matters as a gubernatorial election on which the eyes of the nation were focused, preventing undercutting of hard-won job standards, organizing the unorganized, maintaining a democratic union, and community activity.

The work of the Convention was carried out before such outstanding guests as New Jersey Gov. Robert B. Meyner, State Labor Commissioner Carl Holderman, and Newark Mayor Leo P. Carlin. Representing the International Union—and for deep personal reasons as well—RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg was there with the leaders of his old home local, which he led for many years as its president. Local 338 Pres. Julius Sum was also present, as were other union leaders.



Newly-retired Louis Schiller, l., formerly of Davega store in Newark, receives first '108' pension check from Director Irving Rosenberg.



Newark's Mayor Leo P. Carlin, long a friend of Local 108, is shown conveying congratulations to stewards at local's 20th anniversary convention.



# father

## Is Now the Weaker Sex

By JANE GOODSELL

Things have got so mixed up lately that it is no wonder so many people are holed up in mental hospitals, convinced they are Napoleon Bonaparte. Once people get confused about who they are, becoming Napoleon is an easy way out of their confusion.

Being just people used to be comparatively simple. Before the 20th century of The Well-Rounded Existence, the world was divided into three kinds of people—men, women and children. Each of these groups was a distinctly different species, well-defined and unique.

Men were men, and they were as easily recognizable as the Father in a book of paper dolls. They wore three-piece suits with vests, and stiff collars, and they divided their time between home, work and some purely male hangout, such as the club, the corner poolroom or the tavern.

When they arrived home from work, they expected to (and did) find dinner ready on the dot, and the household quiet and peaceful. The younger children were fed, bathed and ready to receive a goodnight kiss. The older children were respectful and attentive to any words of wisdom that might fall from Father's lips. When he spoke, people listened, and when he finished they said, "Yes, Father," not "Jeez, what a square!"

Father had not been given a grocery list before leaving for work in the morning, and he arrived home either empty-handed or bearing a box of his favorite cigars. He did not change into Bermuda shorts and a print shirt that matched his wife's playsuit. He did not roll up his sleeves to give the baby her bath, and he did not get down on the floor to be a pal to his children. (He was not their pal. He was their Father.)

Neither did he hurry into the kitchen to marinate steaks for barbecuing. He sat down at the head of the table, tucked in his napkin and served notice that he was ready for his dinner. And an excellent dinner it was, too, starting with marrow bone soup and ending with apple pie and a good cigar. In those days, Father did not know that he was the weaker sex, whose life expectancy was cut short by smoking and a high fat diet.



There was no question in his mind about who he was. He was a man, a father and head of his household. No teen-age daughter would have dared to borrow his shirts, and he would have flown into a rage at the suggestion that he should use an anti-perspirant, even if it was designed especially for men and called "Houndstooth."

The opposite sex was easily recognizable as women, although they preferred to be called "ladies." They spent most of their time in the home, with brief excursions outside to shop or visit other ladies. They didn't diet themselves into looking like kid brothers, and they didn't wear clothes that made them look like Spanish bullfighters or Chinese coolies or dirt farmers. They wore dresses.

They took pride in keeping their silver polished and their stitches dainty, not in their tennis backhands or their knowledge of politics or their ability to shingle a roof. They would have flounced out of the room if anybody told an off-color story in their presence, in case they recognized an off-color story, which is doubtful.

The role of children was just as simple. They were supposed to do what they were told, and if they didn't—and got caught—they were punished. They were expected to have nice manners and obey the Ten Commandments, and there wasn't any jazz about sibling rivalry and over-compensation and inferiority complexes. After all, they were children, and they were inferior, weren't they?

But nowadays everything is all mixed up. And if, occasionally, some aproned man or blue-jeaned woman gets confused to the point of going completely batty, can you blame them?



Record Drawings by Marjorie Glaubach

## Toy Prices Up for Yuletide; Tips on 'Best Bets' For Your Holiday Buying

By SIDNEY MARGOLIUS  
Consumer Expert for The Record

The widely-criticized increase in the price of steel this year has been brought home with a vengeance to U. S. parents and kids this Christmas. Many playthings made of steel are noticeably higher. Toys made of wood and other materials run approximately the same in price as last year, and some even cost less.

The price boost has been especially noticeable in such traditional playthings as steel wagons and trikes. The increase hits moderate-income families hardest. Lower-price steel goods have gone up more than higher-priced items which have enough margin of profit so manufacturers can absorb part of the increased cost of materials. This department finds, for example, that some steel wagons which last year sold for \$9.45, this year are tagged \$9.95. But a wagon tagged \$7.39 last year has been raised to \$8.45 for this Christmas.

In many cases trikes are tagged 50 cents more than last year, and 16-inch bikes cost a dollar more. Some electric train sets have been boosted 50c to \$1. Playthings which use a great deal of steel, such as backyard equipment, show the most dramatic increases. A ten-inch slide that sold for \$27 last year now costs \$35. A backyard gym tagged \$49 last year now costs \$57. A set of steel play furniture—table and two chairs—now costs \$13.50 compared to last year's \$11.79.

But families with girls get a break this year in the price reductions on some dolls. A 25-inch doll tagged \$9.50 last year, this Christmas can be bought for \$8. Bride dolls with costume which cost \$8 last year, this year are a dollar less.

### Discounts to Be Had on Many Tags

Also, this Christmas careful shoppers can find many price cuts and discounts at retail. The toy business has become extremely competitive. Discount houses, supermarkets and other price-cutting retailers now sell full lines of toys in large volume in competition with the more traditional outlets as department stores, variety stores and toy shops. In general, the prospect is for the biggest price-cutting Christmas in recent years on the retail level.

The price-cutting is affecting such adult gift items as radios and appliances. One popular transistor portable radio which costs \$32.95 at wholesale, is being sold by retailers for as little as \$35.95 to \$38.95. The list price is \$55. Transistor portables are smaller and lighter than tube-type portables, but generally cost more than twice as much and have a much higher battery expense.

Apparel gifts offer good value this year. Clothing prices have risen very little in recent years, and in some instances cost even less. Boys' shirts, cowboy boots and cowboy suits are approximately the same as last year, while Orlon sweaters have been reduced even further. A girl's Orlon turtleneck sweater tagged \$5 last year, sells for \$4.39 this Christmas.

Here are some buying tips on some of the traditional toy gifts and some newer ones:

● **BOARD GAMES** similar to the expensive classic games are available in chain and variety stores in less-costly versions. A game called "Finance" is similar to "Monopoly", but sells for \$1.75 to \$2 instead of the \$4 and \$5 charged for "Monopoly." "Skip-A-Cross" is similar to "Scrabble", in fact, was developed by the same company to sell for less than its higher-priced running mate.

A new game recommended by the toy-testing committee of the Canadian Association of Consumers is "Careers," which provides obstacles and rewards in pursuing careers.

A coordination toy recommended by the committee is "Pipe Dreams," consisting of 18 pipes, which satisfies a child's desire to be a junior plumber.

● **NATURAL-FINISH BLOCKS** in varied shapes enabling a child to build various structures are a basic plaything for children under 9. They come in either maple or less-expensive poplar. Maple is more durable. But unless you have a large family and expect the blocks will be handed down, the less-costly poplar blocks are satisfactory. Sets are available at reasonable prices this year; for example, set of 20 blocks, \$3; 32 blocks, \$4.50; 44 blocks, about \$6.50. But look for finely-sanded blocks with rounded corners.

● **SCIENTIFIC KITS** are available in great quantities this year, but some cost as much as \$15 to \$20. One of the least costly but very instructive is "Let's Find Out About the Weather." It contains pre-cut cardboard parts for weather house, barometer, weather boat, air current wheel, anemometer, wind-vane and booklet on how to start a weather bureau. It sells for about \$3, or is available from American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, for \$3.35 postpaid.

One of the best buys in scientific materials is the Pebble Pub kit of 18 different labeled rocks and minerals, and a 90-page booklet on rocks developed by the Chicago Natural History Museum and sold by the National History Museum Book Shop (Chicago 3, Ill.), and other retailers, for \$1.25.

● **ART EQUIPMENT:** A new art hobby for children this year is sand painting by numbers. These kits which cost \$3.50, contain colored sand, tools, glue and drawings with numbers corresponding to the colors to be used. Two different kits are available: "Birds and Animals," and "Children of the World."

The Arts Cooperative Service, a supplier of play materials for schools, reports great interest in color paddles. These are plastic spatula-like paddles. Overlaying one on the other shows children how secondary colors are formed. These cost \$1.60 a set and are recommended for children in first grade and younger. The co-op's address is 322 E. 23rd St., New York; On request it will send a price list of recommended play materials.

● **BOOKS:** Two attractive new books for children featured by some of the museums are "Animal Story Book," and "Little Folks of Other Lands." These list for \$3. Some stores in larger cities give discounts on books, and so do a number of book clubs. You also can secure any books by mail for Christmas giving at discounts of 20 percent from Consumer Book Club, P.O. Box 116, 10 Overlook Terrace, New York 13.

A traditional favorite for children is the Burgess animal stories, such as "Old Mother West Wind and Her Children."



# lighter side of the record

## A Clear Field

The head of the house was reading a newspaper article very carefully. When he had come to the end he remarked to his wife: "Do you know, dear, I think there's something in what this article says—that the cleverness of the father often proves a stumbling-block to the son."

His wife heaved a sigh of relief.  
"Well, thank goodness," she said, "our Bobby won't have anything to fall over!"

## Strange!

Judge (to witness): "Was your friend in the habit of talking to himself when he was alone?"

Witness: "To tell you the truth, your honor, I never was with him when he was alone."

## True to Life

Posing the farmer with his college-age son for a picture, the photographer suggested that the boy stand with his hand on his father's shoulder.

"If you want it to look natural," said the long-suffering parent, "he could put his hand in my pocket."

## Loyal Son

A group of political conventioners had gathered in a convention city and, as they sat at the hotel bar, were revealing their birthplaces.

"I hail from Texas," said one.

"I hail from Illinois," said another.

"I hail from New York," said a third.

"I," said a sun-tanned delegate sitting at the end of the bar, "come from California where the Chamber of Commerce wouldn't permit me to hail or rain."

## Howling Success

He slapped his hand upon his thigh,  
He held his sides in glee.

He laughed till he was wet of eye,  
Quite uncontrollably.

I surely thought he'd have a stroke,  
So frenzied was his plight;

But, once his boss had told the joke —  
And left, he seemed all right.

—Dick Emmons.

## Life's Like That

Boss: "I see you were late again this morning, Sam."

Sam: "Yes, Boss, but I have a good excuse."

Boss: "I'm listening."

Sam: "You see, when I got up this morning I really felt great. I just knew I could do anything. I was filled with ambition. No problem was too tough for me. Nothing could stop me."

Boss: "Well?"

Sam: "I couldn't untie the string to my pajamas."

## Candid Comment

One male wedding guest to another as they watched bride and groom leave the church: "There, but for some fast thinking on a moonlit lake last July, go I."

—Arkansas Baptist.

## Forearmed, Forewarned

One reason why trains don't have as many accidents as automobiles is that the engineer doesn't drive with his arm around the fireman.

## Ticklers

By George



"Boss, I feel awful! All night long I toss and turn!"



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS  
WORLD IS COMING TO J.P.  
... I JUST CAUGHT THE  
EFFICIENCY EXPERT  
LOAFING AGAIN!

## The Last Straw



**EXERCISE IS THE EXCUSE:** Why a reason for running this picture is needed is beyond us. However, Venetia Stevenson is demonstrating waist twisting recommended to prevent excess bulges. If you wish to see more of her, catch "Darby's Rangers" when it hits the local theatres.







***A Thought for Thanksgiving:***

**What's in YOUR Future?**

This is the time of the year when a lot of promises are made. Retail employees in particular are given glowing pictures of what the future holds in store for them. But **unorganized** retail employees are wondering whether the turkey they're being promised now may be followed by the axe when the holiday season is over!

These weeks before Christmas are back-breaking ones for retail employees, and extremely profitable ones for retail employers. But the day after Christmas, the good feeling of the holiday season is a thing of the past and the axe is being sharpened.

There's only one way to put a different—and happier—ending on this annual event: by helping retail employees to organize themselves. **You** can play a vital role. Tell the retail employees you know about the advantages of belonging to the RWDSU. Get them to join, and urge them to get their fellow employees to do the same. That way, they'll wind up with the turkey instead of the axe!